The Armed Forces PRAYER BOOK

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Compiled and Edited by

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TO

All Men and Women
in the Armed Forces

FOREWORD

Prayer is the soul's breath. Without oxygen the body dies, and a prayerless spirit can never know the soul's abundant life.

This little book does not contain the philosophy of prayer. It is not a book about prayer. It is a book of prayers.

The first prayer is from President Truman's first Message to the Congress offered on April 16, 1945, and sent to me by the President when I requested it for inclusion in this book.

> "At this moment, I have in my heart a prayer. As I assume my heavy duties, I humbly pray to Almighty God, in the words of Solomon: 'Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?' I ask only to be a good and faithful servant of my Lord and my people."

Perhaps never before has the written page contained so many petitions chosen by so many people of all faiths, and from every area of life and service. They have been written for the Armed Forces, for men and women of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines.

This volume of prayers is the contribution of those in both the Armed Forces and civilian life who have found under all circumstances of war and peace God's grace that is sufficient for every ordeal. These are not the prayers of weaklings, nor are they the prayers of men and women overwhelmed by doubt and fear. They seek guidance and find it through the darkness of sorrow and pain. They do not ask deliverance from burdens that should be borne, but for power. They do not claim exemption from hardship and sacrifice, but constantly they voice the petition "Heavenly Father, make me adequate." Again and again the note is sounded "Forgive my enemies," and in that is unique strength for all those who pray. There are special prayers for special occasions, prayers from the Holy Scriptures, too, and from the liturgies of all faiths.

On these pages the common heritage of believing men and women has been made articulate, for in prayer there is no distinction between Catholic and Jew and Protestant, even as all are children of one Father.

And it is The Lord's Prayer at last, the prayer that Jesus gave to his disciples, that becomes the universal choice, even as it is the universal spirit of prayer—"Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

In March, 1941, the President of the United States gave to the Armed Forces a special message that had its foundation in prayer. Then he wrote "As Commander-in-Chief, I take pleasure in commending the reading of the Bible to all who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States. Throughout the centuries men of many faiths and diverse origins have found in the Sacred Book words of wisdom, counsel and inspiration. It is a fountain of strength and now, as always, an aid in attaining the highest aspirations of the human soul."

How real to him were those words is suggested by a letter written by President Roosevelt on November 15, 1944. This letter, framed, hangs on the wall of my office. The last sentence voices what is, I believe, the universal hunger of the human heart: "In these grave days I like to think that I shall continue to have a remembrance in your prayers." And so it is in "these grave days," to all service men and women, and to all others who would remember the sons and daughters of the nation who pledge their lives to freedom, that this little book is dedicated.

DANIEL A. POLING

The Armed Forces PRAYER BOOK

HERBERT HOOVER, GENERAL DOUGLAS MacARTHUR, and MRS. MacARTHUR

The Lord's Prayer is the one universal prayer, the prayer of all those of all faiths who believe in one God. Also, it is always personal, and as a personal prayer, Douglas MacArthur and Mrs. MacArthur have named it as their prayer for this book.

I received Mrs. MacArthur's letter while in Tokyo and only the day before the General had led the United Nations forces in repeating it at Seoul. Mrs. MacArthur wrote: "Both the General and I feel that the greatest and most comforting prayer would always be the Lord's Prayer."

And the Honorable Herbert Hoover, former President of the United States, joined the MacArthurs with "I have never found anything better than the Lord's Prayer."

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.

Amen.

DENNIS CARDINAL DOUGHERTY

Chancellor Cletus J. Benjamin wrote: "In view of the fact that our Divine Lord, when his disciples asked Him to teach them to pray, gave to them and the whole world the Our Father, His Eminence does not feel that he could suggest any other than the Lord's Prayer itself."

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy name
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from all evil.
Amen.

DEAN ACHESON

The Secretary of State selects the following prayer from the Book of Common Prayer:

Almighty God, who hast created man in Thine own image; Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil, and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice among men and nations, to the glory of Thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

BISHOP WILLIAM R. ARNOLD

Bishop Arnold was the first Roman Catholic Chief of Chaplains of the Army of the United States. He rendered his country and all faiths a distinguished service. He was retired with the rank of Major General.

Almighty and Eternal God, Creator of heaven and earth and all things, we humbly acknowledge Thy dominion over all nations and governments. Thou art the God Who alone dost wonders, and Thou hast made Thy power known to all nations throughout the ages. We behold daily the fulfillment of Thy prophecies that, because of evil in the hearts of men, nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be pestilences and famines, and destruction and death in many places.

We stand before Thee this day, surrounded by dangers and threatened with the loss of all those blessings for which we have sacrificed so much. Enlighten our minds in order that we may see Thy good and gracious purpose working in all human events. Teach us to know that love of our Country is love of our neighbor and that there is no love where there is no sacrifice. Help us to remember that Thou dost always save a humble people, and fill us with a wholesome fear of Thy infinite justice and a firm trust in Thy infinite wisdom and power, goodness and mercy. Thou hast warned us that

without You we can do nothing and hast promised us that with You we can do all things. Sustain us by Thy grace and take us under Thy sure protection.

In these days especially, open our hearts to the inspiration given us by all those who in other parts of the world are sacrificing their lives, their health and security, and all their earthly possessions in defense of truth, justice, and freedom. Through Thine own Way of the Cross grant them the faith and the heroic courage to endure unto final victory and immortal glory. May their souls and ours be filled with unfaltering hope and invincible determination by Thy eternal pledge that "they who sow in tears shall reap in joy: for going they went and wept, casting their seeds; but coming, they shall come with joyfulness, carrying their sheaves."

Clear our minds and cleanse our hearts that we may be worthy comrades of all those who suffer daily cruelties and agonizing sacrifices for the salvation of their children and their nation. May Thine all-seeing eye never detect in us any ingratitude or selfishness which might increase their hardships or frustrate their sacrifices.

Send forth Thy Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with faith and love and courage; and we shall be recreated, and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth for Thine honor and glory and for our peace and happiness. *Amen.*

DR. JESSE M. BADER

Dr. Bader, Executive Secretary of the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, who has organized and conducted missions for the Armed Services across the world, offers a Prayer for Men under the Colors.

Our gracious Heavenly Father, we commend to Thy loving care all those who have gone forth to serve their country and the cause of freedom, on land and sea and in the air. Keep them strong and steadfast; give them courage and chivalry; shield them from danger; inspire them with devotion to the cause for which they are offering their lives, and help them and us to achieve a just and lasting peace for the whole world.

Have mercy, O Lord, upon all the wounded and suffering. Though kindred and friends be far away, may Thy grace be their comfort. Uphold by Thy strength and guide by Thy holy spirit all those who care for the sick and wounded this day.

We would remember before Thee in our prayer, all little children and their mothers—those who are lonely, forlorn, and made homeless by war. Help us to be helpers of the helpless in this world of fear and strife.

God bless America. We pray that Thou wilt keep our nation in Thy holy protection. Use this nation

for the bringing in of the glad day of peace with justice. Speed the day, O Lord, when all men shall brothers be and when the kingdoms of this world shall become the Kingdoms of our God and His Christ.

We pray in His name,

Amen.

FAITH BALDWIN

In sending her prayer, Faith Baldwin writes of her nephew, Bruce, who was killed in action in Korea: "He volunteered . . . they were ambushed . . . he and a few of his men escaped and got in the clear. . . . Other men were trapped, and with the captain of another unit they fought back with one tank and rescued many . . . Bruce was killed." This nephew was as Faith Baldwin's own son.

Dear God, compassionate Father, be with me now and always. Guide me through this night and the day beyond. Strengthen me to endure, enable me to accomplish, speak to me above the noise of terror and destruction, grant me the courage to meet whatever comes. And bless, dear Lord, my comrades; sustain and keep in safety all those I love, in Jesus' Name.

Amen.

COLONEL IVAN L. BENNETT

General MacArthur's Senior Chaplain, who served for nearly five years in the Pacific and Far East during World War II, is now again with the General in Japan and Korea. His prayer was used in Tokyo on May 30, 1950, and is, therefore, a Memorial Day Prayer.

Our Father Who art in Heaven, Who through Christ our Lord hast taught us that Thou art near us here on earth:

We stand today, uncovered, desiring the consciousness of Thy presence, in faith that while we are at one in spirit with the heroes of the common good we are not far from Thee.

Give us to know the power of the lives this day commemorates. Bring vividly before our vision all who have hazarded their lives for country and home, and make real to our hearts the faith and the courage by which our fathers and our comrades lived and died. May our minds be open to every sacred memory, and may our hearts be receptive to every holy impression.

Here in the awareness of Thy presence we would dedicate ourselves anew, in confidence that life's battle is not lost and that our comrades have not died in vain. Consecrate with Thy presence the way our feet must go, and lift us above bitterness, and hate, and unrighteous anger into faith and courage

and good will. Guard us against violence of spirit and preserve us in mental and spiritual health, that whatever bodily sacrifice awaits us, we may endure with patience, keeping faith with ourselves, our loved ones, and with Thee.

Comfort the sorrowing, soothe the suffering, and be near to bless the dying, granting them the preparation of the gospel of peace for the life beyond. Remember in mercy the children of Thy creation, and bring us out of our confusion and strife to know that the fruits of righteousness shall be peace. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

DR. PHILIP S. BERNSTEIN

Rabbi Bernstein of Temple B'rith Kodesh, Rochester, N.Y., is President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

For what shall we pray, O Lord? For strength, for victory, for a swift peace? Certainly! But we pray also to be worthy of the faith of our loved ones. We seek help that our souls shall not be corroded by the grim work that we must do. Above all, give us light to see that our sacrifices are made for Thee.

Amen.

GENERAL OMAR BRADLEY

General Bradley wrote: "Since my cadet days at the Military Academy I have always gotten a great deal of comfort and consolation from the Cadet Prayer. This prayer is an integral part of cadet life at the United States Military Academy." GENERAL JAMES LAWTON COLLINS, *Chief of Staff, also named as his favorite prayer for inclusion in this book, the Cadet Prayer.*

O God, our Father, Thou Searcher of men's hearts, help us to draw near to Thee in sincerity and truth. May our religion be filled with gladness and may our worship to Thee be natural.

Strengthen and increase our admiration for honest dealing and clean thinking, and suffer not our hatred of hypocrisy and pretense ever to diminish. Encourage us in our endeavor to live above the common level of life. Make us to choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong, and never to be content with a half truth when the whole can be won. Endow us with courage that is born of loyalty to all that is noble and worthy, that scorns to compromise with vice and injustice and knows no fear when truth and right are in jeopardy. Guard us against flippancy and irreverence in the sacred things of life. Grant us new ties of friendship and new opportunities of service. Kindle our hearts in fellowship with those of a cheerful countenance, and soften our hearts with sympathy for those who

sorrow and suffer. May we find genuine pleasure in clean and wholesome mirth and feel inherent disgust for all coarse-minded humor. Help us in our work and in our play to keep ourselves physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight, that we may the better maintain the honor of the Corps untarnished and unsullied, and acquit ourselves like men in our effort to realize the ideals of West Point in doing our duty to Thee and to our Country. All of which we ask in the name of the Great Friend and Master of men.

Amen.

By Colonel C. E. Wheat

LOU BRISSIE

This great athlete who, in spite of World War II wounds that all but crippled him for life, became a star pitcher on the Philadelphia Athletics, wrote: "This is my choice of prayers. You may have seen it, for it is very old, but it always impressed me as a prayer that gave a great lift."

Our God and Father, we give Thee thanks that there is One Who knows us and cares, and daily guides us to higher and better things. We humbly confess our shortcomings and pray for Thy forgiveness where we have hesitated in the face of duty, or have been half-hearted in the pursuit of our tasks, or willful in our own conceits. We thank Thee for the day when we may make amends for our failures. We pray for Thy presence to give us courage as we meet the responsibilities of each hour. To Thee we commit the life and destiny of each, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

JOE E. BROWN

Joe E. Brown, whose son was killed in World War II, gave his services as an entertainer on all the fronts of that war. He has been an inspiration to hundreds of thousands of men and women. He telegraphed his prayer on returning from a tour of Australia.

Dear God, I pray that I shall never falter fighting for our way of living, for my ideals. And, O Lord, when the battle is over, I beseech Thee give me strength to heal all scars and wash all hatred from my soul. Bring, dear God, understanding and peace of mind to me and my recent enemy which shall mean peace and contentment for all the world.

Amen.

DR. ERNEST R. BRYAN

Dr. Bryan is President of the International Society of Christian Endeavor. He was a Lieutenant Commander in World War II and continues his active duties with the Navy.

Our Father in Heaven, we thank Thee that we can pray. We know that Thou art listening and, what is more important, that we can hear Thy voice speaking to us when we take time to listen to Thee and to think about Thee and Thy love for us. We are grateful that we can pray to Thee anytime and anywhere, for Thou art everywhere. Thy still small voice can come to us even amid the noise of battle.

Wilt Thou help us in time of danger. Be near when we are in doubt and fear. Give us Thy calm. We know that we are not free from trouble or sorrow, but Thy strength will always see us through bad times. No burden is too great when we have Thee to share it with us. We thank Thee for this partnership with Thee.

We thank Thee, too, for our friends and loved ones. Bless them all. May we be worthy of them. Help them and help us ever to do our part, to be strong in the faith, to cast out worry and fear.

Some things we have done wrong. We admit it, and ask Thy forgiveness. With Thy help we can

throw off our sense of guilt, our bad habits, and we can do better and feel better. May our dealings be fair and square with those around us. May we help those who need a word of cheer, a bit of encouragement, a lift with some talk.

Be with us and guide us all the way.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Amen.

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES I. CARPENTER

This prayer from the Chief of the Air Force chaplains has strengthened men in the line of duty around the world.

Our Heavenly Father,

In these days of anxiety and confusion we look to Thee for the guidance we so greatly need. Take under Thy direction the talents and abilities that are ours and indicate to us the manner in which these abilities may be used for Thee.

If today we are called upon to meet the challenge of life and our reservoir of personal strength is insufficient, grant us the sustaining power of Thy presence that we may, with Thee, acquit ourselves well.

Into Thy care this day we commit our loved ones. Thou knowest the deep thoughts of our hearts concerning them and the good things we covet for them. Today make it possible for us to enrich their lives through our love. Keep them safe in Thy care.

Grant this day, our Father, Thy blessing upon our nation. The strength and greatness of our nation will be only in proportion to our strength and our greatness. Use us, we pray, to build a better nation and a better world.

Stay near us this day, Father, for without Thee we are indeed weak, but with Thee we can do all things. *Amen.*

GENERAL CLIFTON B. CATES

The Commandant of the Marine Corps writes: "I trust that my selection, My Prayer at Reveille, will prove helpful to those who use it."

My God, I offer to Thee this day
All that I can think, or do, or say;
Uniting it with what was done
On earth by Jesus Christ, Thy son.
Amen.

MADAME CHIANG KAI-SHEK

Madame Chiang wrote: "I can think of no prayer that is more beautiful than the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. If every individual and nation could devoutly pray and submerge their own personalities in the spirit of those selfless words, then mankind would indeed be one brotherhood, and there would be neither the exploited nor exploiters; neither slaves nor masters; and the Kingdom of Heaven would indeed be realized on earth.

I cannot find any expression of my own which could equal the nobility of St. Francis' prayer; I can only quote his words."

"Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, light.
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love, for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."

Amen.

GENERAL MARK W. CLARK

The Chief of the Army Field Forces writes: "I offer this prayer in the hope that someone else may find therein some courage, comfort, and peace of mind."

O God, who knowest the duties that be ahead of us, and the weaknesses that easily beset us, prepare us for the unknown immediately before us. We do not pray for immunity from risks; we pray for courage to face risks. We do not ask to be spared from danger; we ask for strength to face danger resolutely. Grant that we may be able to finish that which Thou hast granted us the wish to begin; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

GENERAL LUCIUS D. CLAY

General Clay writes: "Perhaps I should not say so but my prayers are usually silent prayers, and I find difficulty in expressing them in specific words. If I could express the prayer which is most often in my heart, it would be":

Our Father Who art in Heaven, open up the hearts and minds of men to Thy truth. Teach us that power comes from helping our fellow man and not from destroying him to satisfy ruthless personal ambition. Give us the strength to be patient and yet to be determined. Bear with us and bless us now in our hour of trial so that with steadfast purpose we may pursue the cause of freedom until there is peace and understanding among men everywhere.

Amen.

DR. KARL T. COMPTON

Dr. Compton, educator, scientist, and Christian statesman, who was Chairman of the President's Advisory Commission on Universal Military Training, writes: "This simple direct statement appeals to me . . ."

Oh God, give me strength to do my duty, and take good care of my loved ones.

Amen.

GRACE COOLIDGE

Mrs. Coolidge, whose younger son Calvin, Jr., died while his father was President of the United States, contributes this prayer:

O Thou Who has ordered this wondrous world, Who knowest all things in earth and heaven, so fill our hearts with trust in Thee, that by night and by day, at all times and in all seasons, we may without fear commit those who are dear to us to Thy never-failing love, for this life and the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GENERAL JACOB L. DEVERS

The former Chief of the Army Field Forces writes: "I am sure that this book will bring comfort and courage to hundreds and thousands of men and women whose lives must build the barricades of freedom."

O God, in days when men and nations are tense with suspicion, jealousy, and fear, give to us as individuals and to all mankind the wisdom to replace discouragement and doubt with an enduring hope and faith in the future, and through Thy help to overcome hate with a steadfast love and tolerance for our fellowman.

Amen.

MAJ. GENERAL JOHN M. DEVINE

General Devine, who was in command of the Fort Dix U. M. T. Experimental Unit and who later commanded the First Cavalry Division in the Far East, is now Chief of the Armed Forces Information and Education Division, Department of Defense. He writes: "While I have composed many an impromptu prayer under the strain of difficult times, it never before occurred to me to put a prayer on paper."

O God, Creator of Heaven and Earth,
Before Whom we must all one day appear
To give a final accounting of the use of our talents,

We ask You to bless and guide us in our Army life;
Assist us by Thy counsel as we instruct
the young men of America
In developing their bodies,
Enlightening their minds,
And strengthening their spirits,
That they may be men worthy
Of the trust and confidence of their Country.

Grant us O God
Wisdom to decide
And courage to execute
Whatsoever may be necessary
For the preservation on earth of Thy Kingdom.

In Thee I have put my trust,
I will not fear what flesh can do to me.
Even though I should walk in the Valley of Death,
I shall fear no evil, for Thou art with me.

Amen.

HENRY H. DUDLEY

The National Adjutant of the American Legion submits a daily prayer.

Our Heavenly Father: Through these troublous times we pray that Thou wilt guide our steps in the paths that we should follow. Comfort the sorrowing parents of our young men who have given their lives that Thy will be done. Enlighten those who do not know Thy way. Give an understanding heart to the leaders of our Nation. Grant us courage and strength to carry on in the face of all adversity. And make us truly grateful for all Thy many blessings. What we ask is in Thy name.

Amen.

GENERAL DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

General Eisenhower, Commander of West European armies, wrote that his favorite prayer was the Twenty-third Psalm and his favorite hymn "Lead, Kindly Light." Since another contributor has named the Twenty-third Psalm, and since the hymn is a timeless prayer, the hymn follows:

LEAD, KINDLY LIGHT

Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,
    Lead Thou me on!
The night is dark, and I am far from home,
    Lead Thou me on!
Keep Thou my feet! I do not ask to see
The distant scene; one step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor prayed that Thou
    Shouldst lead me on;
I loved to choose and see my path; but now
    Lead Thou me on!
I loved the garish day; and, spite of fears,
Pride ruled my will: remember not past years.

So long Thy power has blest me, sure it still
    Will lead me on
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
    The night is gone;
And with the morn those angel faces smile,
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

THOMAS K. FINLETTER

Mr. Finletter, Secretary of the Air Force, contributes this original prayer.

Eternal God, Who countest the nations and dost weigh them in the balance: Who puttest down the mighty from their seats and dost exalt the meek of spirit; bless this Our Nation and look with favor upon the people whom Thou hast established.

Thou, O Lord, hast guided us in the past and hast led us to this hour of destiny. Thou hast set us in the gateways of the earth so that our name is spoken among all nations. Yet, not unto us, but unto Thee be all the glory. It humbles us to realize that we too shall be brought to judgment; that where much has been given much shall be required. Thy Providence knows no favorites and naught can bend Thy Justice. No prestige nor power can save those who deny Thy Purpose or refuse Thy Will.

Bless us in these days of trial with clear vision, unfailing courage, and the grace to deny ourselves for the common good. Make us worthy of the noble traditions in which we were conceived and help us to cherish the heritage bequeathed to us.

Bless the men and women of our Armed Forces. Make them brave in the face of danger and make them merciful in victory. Let Thy Works appear

unto Thy servants, and Thy Glory unto their children. Let the beauty of the Lord, our God, be upon us; and establish Thou the works of our hands upon us. Yea, the work of our hands, establish Thou it.

Amen.

BETTY JUNG FITZSIMMONS

Mrs. Fitzsimmons, twice widowed in seven years, was the wife of one of the four Dorchester Chaplains, Clark V. Poling. This is the prayer of her faith and courage.

Loving Father, in my unworthiness, humbly do I seek to come into Thy presence, for therein is safekeeping. With thanksgiving do I come to Thee. When my days are filled with joy, that joy is multiplied because Thou dost share it with me. And when my days are filled with sorrow, there I find comfort and peace and courage because Thou makest me to know that I am not alone, that always Thou dost share my suffering and so my burden is lightened.

Fill me with Thy Spirit that I may always follow in Thy paths, for therein is peace. Then all vain strivings, all impatience will vanish, and I can, as I would, be Thy instrument to do Thy will.

Forgive me, O Father, for living less nobly, less purely, less righteously than I ought to live. Keep me ever mindful of my responsibilities and my obligations to my fellowmen, Thy children. And at last bring me to that perfect haven where peace and joy and love abound, where Thou dost reign supreme. In the name of Jesus, I make this my prayer.

Amen.

HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK

The pastor emeritus of Riverside Church in New York offers a prayer

FOR NEWNESS OF LIFE

Eternal Spirit, Who art the Source of all excellence, inspire us today as though the sun of a new spiritual springtime had risen upon us. Carry us out of inner darkness and gloom into light, out of our deadness of heart into life, out of our barrenness into fruitfulness and the promise of a good harvest.

We need Thee in our troubles, for they are many. We must choose between faith and fear, courage and cynicism, strength of character and collapse of life; and we would choose the better way. Therefore we seek in Thee vision and power and hope. Grant us grace to accept and to use them worthily. Open our eyes to see opportunity here where we are, to see holy ground here where we stand, and to see resources of strength here where we struggle.

Come close to us one by one in strong temptation, in moral defeat, in perplexity; and grant unto us some visitation of the Divine that will lift us up, increase our courage, strengthen our faith, bring us to victory. We ask it in the Spirit of Christ.

Amen.

DR. WILLIAM HIRAM FOULKS

Dr. Foulks is a former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

Almighty and Eternal God, our Heavenly Father, Whose everlasting arms are underneath, we commit ourselves to the cause for which we struggle, to Thy gracious care and keeping. Give us courage and strength, patience and hope. Bind us together with those whom we love and from whom we must be separated for a season. In every hour of trial may we be true to our Christian inheritance and to our noblest ideals!

In the name of Him who is King of Kings and Prince of Peace.

Amen.

THERESA GOODE

The widow of one of the immortal Four Chaplains selects a prayer and writes: "This was written by my husband and often used by him . . . in view of what has happened . . . this is more fitting than any other prayer I might offer."

MEMORIAL PRAYER

(*for those lost through human strife*)

O God, the Creator of life, to Whom the bereaved human heart turns for compassion and solace, to Thee we open our hearts, sorely stricken by the wanton destruction of life through man's own hand. With tender love we recall dear ones lost in the service of their country while striving selflessly and bravely to remove from us the evil which men have contrived. With crushed spirit we remember the countless innocent victims whose lives have been ruthlessly cut short by men who brazenly defy Thy laws of truth, justice and love.

Hearken, O merciful One, unto our fervent prayer and turn speedily the men of wickedness from their misguided course, so that peace may once more rule the courses of men. Remove the blindness wherewith lust for power has veiled their eyes and turned their hearts to stone, laying waste Thy previous gift of life. And as for us who still

walk in this path of life, make us firm in our resolve to pursue righteousness and peace so that the sacrifice of these lost ones whom we reverently recall this day shall not have been in vain. May their souls be bound up in the bond of life eternal, O Heavenly Father, and may we be found worthy of being inscribed in Thy book of life and peace.

Amen.

LAURA GOODE

Mrs. Goode, past National President, Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion, sent this prayer for "comfort and strength" from the heart of floods and storms on the Pacific Coast.

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Our hearts rejoice that we have the right to claim Thee as our Father.

We remember with gratitude that Thou hast been companion to the needy, and deliverer of the oppressed through ages past, so we ask Thy pity upon the masses of mankind, bowed beneath the burden of war.

In our weakness make us strong. Send Thy comfort into every sore heart and every stricken home.

We ask that we may have believing and contrite hearts, that we may be used by thee, that our beloved land may prosper in the fulfillment of her great task, to Thy glory.

Grant us the blessing of peace—the peace that passeth all understanding. In the name of Thy beloved Son we ask these things.

Amen.

WILLIAM L. GREEN

Mr. Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, deeply religious himself, has written this characteristic prayer.

Our Father in Heaven, we beseech Thee to strengthen our purpose to face the international emergency now confronting us in a strong and courageous way. We pray for Divine Guidance in the shaping of policies and for wisdom and courage in the execution of policies.

Help us to be moved by a consuming desire to promote the Brotherhood of Man throughout the world, to follow a righteous course, and to be moved by religious fervor, pleading for the acceptance of cooperation, goodwill and international understanding everywhere.

Amen.

DR. CLARENCE HALL

Dr. Hall, Managing Editor of Christian Herald *magazine, was a correspondent in World War II.*

Eternal Father of mankind: Give us this day a new and shining vision of the world for which Christ died, a pride in the task that is ours to make that world free. Help us to see over us, brighter than any banner, the banner of Thy love. Help us confidently to hope, with a hope that transcends all mere optimism, for that day when even the wrath of men shall praise Thee. And help us to believe, with a faith that cannot be shaken, in the sure coming of that dawn when the kingdoms of this world shall become the Kingdom of our Lord and His Christ.

Amen.

COLONEL MARY A. HALLAREN

Colonel Mary A. Hallaren, Director, WAC, offers the prayer which, she writes, "is echoed in many different forms by as many different Wacs."

Dear Lord, teach us the true meaning of giving, sharing, and doing for others. Living together, working together, playing together—grant us an understanding of our own shortcomings and a tolerance of others. Help us to make the spirit of the Women's Army Corps a continuation of the spirit that was born in Bethlehem two thousand years ago.

Amen.

CAPTAIN JOY BRIGHT HANCOCK

Captain Hancock, Commandant, WAVES, writes: "The following prayer, composed by Mary Monnett, an apprentice seaman in the Naval Reserve during the war, will best answer your request":

PRAYER OF A NAVY WAVE

Dear Lord, as I kneel down to pray I have so much to ask:
My prayers are for the strength to serve a nation's mighty task.
I need the grace with which to wear in dignity and pride
My uniform and take with it its meaning in my stride.
Teach me, O Lord, obedience—that I may do my best
Until our country once again is peaceful and at rest.
And having these to guide me while our Navy's in the war,
I have but then to thank You—I cannot ask for more.
Thank You for our country, for our people free and brave,
And make me ever worthy, Lord, to be a Navy Wave.

Amen.

DR. FREDERICK BROWN HARRIS

Dr. Harris, Chaplain of the United States Senate, submits this original prayer:

Our Father God, who hath made and preserved us a nation: Our fathers trusted in Thee and were not confounded. In Thee we trust.

Thou hast taught us to love truth and beauty and goodness. In all our relationships as citizens of the Republic, this sweet land of liberty, may Thy truth make us free—free from littleness, pride, and prejudice, and from all the ugly sins of disposition which so easily do beset us. May our patriotism be pure and undefiled. In all our aspirations and attitudes lift us, we pray Thee, above the mud and scum of mere things to the holiness of Thy beauty. Thus may the common tasks and the trivial rounds be edged with crimson and gold.

Lead us in the paths of righteousness for Thy Name's sake. Enrich us with those durable satisfactions of life, so that the multiplying years may not find us bankrupt in those things that matter most, the golden currency of faith and hope and love.

In these desperate and dangerous days in our national life, when the precious things we hold nearest our hearts are threatened by sinister forces without pity or conscience, help us to give the best that

is in us against the wrong that needs resistance, and for the right that needs assistance and for the future in the distance, and the good that we may do.

In this solemn hour of the supreme test of America's faith, may we bear our full part in freedom's crowning hour, that we may tell our sons and daughters who will live in the light of the new day: "I saw the powers of darkness put to flight. I saw the morning break!"

We ask it in the dear Redeemer's name.

Amen.

VICE-ADMIRAL HARRY W. HILL

Vice-Admiral Hill, Superintendent, United States Naval Academy, writes: "The Prayer of a Midshipman is used every Sunday morning at the Naval Academy Chapel Service. It . . . expresses the spirit of devotion and dependence upon Divine aid which is constantly stressed at the Naval Academy." This prayer was also the favorite named by ADMIRAL FORREST SHERMAN, *Chief of Naval Operations.*

THE PRAYER OF A MIDSHIPMAN

Almighty Father, whose way is in the sea, whose paths are in the great waters, whose command is over all and whose love never faileth: Let me be aware of Thy presence and obedient to Thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and in deed, and helping me so to live that I can stand unashamed and unafraid before my shipmates, my loved ones, and Thee. Protect those in whose love I live. Give me the will to do the work of a man and to accept my share of responsibilities with a strong heart and a cheerful mind. Make me faithful to my duties and mindful of the traditions of the Service of which I am a part. If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist; if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again. Guide me with the light of truth and keep before me the life of Him by Whose example and help I trust to obtain the answer to my prayer, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

BISHOP HENRY WISE HOBSON

Bishop Hobson chooses a prayer from "God Be with You," published by the Forward Movement of the Episcopal Church.

A SERVICEMAN'S PRAYER

(*God Be with You*)

Heavenly Father, I commit myself body and soul to Thy keeping. When I am in peril of life give me courage to do my duty. When I am tempted to sin give me strength to resist. If I am sick or wounded grant me healing. If I fall, of Thy mercy receive me to thyself, forgiving me all my sins. Bless all who are near and dear to me and keep them in Thy fatherly care. And in Thy good providence, out of this evil bring a lasting peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

DR. HARRY N. HOLMES

Dr. Holmes, Honorary Secretary of the World's Christian Endeavor Union, offers this prayer for our country:

A PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we praise Thee for our homeland which we lovingly call America. We remember with thankful hearts the courage and sacrifice that went into the building of our country. We cherish the memory of the heroic men and women who made possible its growth and progress. We think of its rich resources of mine and mountain, river and forest, soil and climate. Beyond everything else, we are grateful for the Christian tradition out of which everything has come. May we increasingly feel that a nation is great only as it walks in the paths of righteousness. Help us so to live and act that we may be worthy trustees of the moral heritage of America.

Amen.

BRIG. GENERAL JULIUS KLEIN

Accompanying the prayer of General Klein, National Commander of Jewish War Veterans, U.S.A., is this message: "I wish to express the deep-seated conviction that this book of prayers will be warmly received by a world which is very much in need of closer contact with God."

Our Father, Whose glory filleth the Universe, we reflect upon the great achievements of those who have made the extreme sacrifice for our country in order that our blessed land may continue to be a beacon of light and a source of hope for the entire civilized world.

Deliver us, O Heavenly Father, from our present impending evils and frustrate the designs of our enemies. Restore us to the bosom of peace.

We pray to Thee to hasten the day when humanity shall be delivered from oppressors and oppression and hate and violence shall never again flourish on the face of Thy earth, and may we realize in our day the fulfillment of the prophetic vision "that they shall dwell every man under his own vine and fig tree with none to make them afraid."

Amen.

LT. GENERAL CURTIS E. LeMAY

General LeMay, commanding the Strategic Air Command, expresses the hope that "the Book of Prayers will soon become available to our young men and women in the Armed Forces."

Almighty God, we are thankful for the privileges that are ours and ask that we may use Thy gifts with wisdom and integrity.

Deliver our Nation from complacency, self-interest, and apathy. Enable all those who have been placed in positions of trust to perform their duties with honor and fidelity.

Give us the strength to destroy oppression and enslavement wherever it might be found. May we accord to all men those inalienable rights we demand for ourselves.

Grant Thy peace now and always to those who have given their lives, or their loved ones, in service to the cause of justice and freedom.

In the name of the Prince of Peace we pray.

Amen.

MRS. DEXTER N. LUTZ

Mrs. Lutz, a missionary to the Far East, wrote this prayer.

God, Who didst send Thy Son to save the world, help the men who have the charge of captives to remember that He has bidden: "Love your enemies." Rid their hearts of hatred; temper them with compassion and kindness, that they may exemplify those qualities which shall win men to follow after truth and peace. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

THEUS J. MacQUEEN

This prayer from the National Commander of the Marine Corps League was written by Commander M. A. Hally, Marine Corps Chaplain.

Almighty and everlasting God, from Whom every good and perfect gift proceeds, look down upon us, Thy children, whom Thou hast made to Thine own image and likeness.

Uphold the hands of those who make the laws by which we are governed: uphold the hands of those who enforce those laws.

Enlighten our intellects, inflame our hearts and strengthen our wills to persevere in the path of truth and righteousness.

We invoke Thy divine blessing upon the President of these United States of America, upon all the officers of our land, legislative, executive, and judicial.

We ask Thy blessing upon all the officers and members of our armed forces and upon all citizens of our beloved country. . . .

Let Thy divine benediction shine upon and gladden the hearts of all officers and members of this glorious organization, The Marine Corps League.

Hasten the time, Almighty God, Our Father, when the spirit of the charity of God shall so prevail throughout the world that no nation shall wage war for the purpose of aggression and none shall need it as a means of defense. *Amen.*

DR. EDGAR MAGNIN

Dr. Magnin is Rabbi of the Wilshire Boulevard Temple, Los Angeles, California.

Dear Lord, I am far from my loved ones but not alone;
Miles away from my friends but I have a Friend.
My heart is filled with courage and I have hope,
For Thou art with me.
Thou art the light that fills my soul with brightness and with joy.
I shall lean upon Thee and not fall.
I shall accomplish the task I have set out to do and not fail;
With Thy help nobody can fail.
I love Thee, O Lord, my God, with all my heart, with all my soul and with all my might,
And I know Thou dost love me and will care for me.

Amen.

GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL

The prayer of General Marshall, Secretary of Defense, appeared first in Mrs. Marshall's book, Together, *published by Tupper & Love.*

Almighty God:

May those who have given their lives in the service of this nation rest in Thy care.

May those who are wounded in body find spiritual comfort under Thy guidance in the knowledge that through their services a great cause has been served.

May those who offer their lives in support of that cause, by land and sea and air, find strength in Thy divine guidance.

May those of us who serve this nation in its great purpose to secure freedom for all peoples be sustained by Thy blessings.

Give us strength, O Lord, that we may be pure in heart and in purpose to the end that there may be peace on earth and good will among men.

May we be mindful this Easter morning "still stands Thine ancient sacrifice, an humble and a contrite heart."

Amen.

FRANCIS P. MATTHEWS

The Secretary of the Navy contributes this original prayer:

Oh God, from Whom to turn away is to fall;
To Whom to turn is to rise again;
In Whom to abide is to stand firm;
Oh God, from Whom to depart is to die;
To Whom to return is to be revived;
In Whom to dwell is to live;

Grant me faith, justice, purity, self-control, humility, repentance, prudence, patience, and that peace which the world does not know.

Let not my lips be for Thy Christ, and my heart for the world. Let me wear the Crusaders' cross of confirmation with honor and dignity, mindful that it is better to be genuine Christian and say nothing than to speak and not practice what one preaches.

If my brothers-in-arms are angry with me, may I imitate Your meekness; let me answer their words of pride with Your humility; their blasphemies by Your prayers; their error by Your steadfastness in the faith; their bullying by Your gentleness.

Since the crown of victory is promised only to those who engage in combat, I ask not for ease or escape, but simply for Thy divine and omnipotent

grace and protection. Since my vocation implies constant readiness to fight unto death, grant me Thy understanding forgiveness if that great hour should come suddenly; may Thy saints and angels assist me in living and dying as a worthy and loving son of Thine.

Amen.

MAJ. GENERAL LUTHER D. MILLER

The original prayer of Dr. Miller, formerly Chief of Chaplains of the Army of the United States:

Heavenly Father, inspire and guide us in our search for the meaning of the gift of life. Help us to find the strength to submit ourselves to discipline, to make ourselves fit in every way to defend the nation and to serve our fellow men. Direct our minds toward great ends and teach us the way in which Thou wouldst have us serve Thee and our beloved country. Grant that we may continue to be Christ's faithful soldiers until our lives' end.

Amen.

DR. JAMES SHERA MONTGOMERY

Dr. Montgomery is Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

O Lord, our Lord, Thou whom we love to call Father, speak to us as in humility and yet in eagerness we await Thy presence. Continue to work through us Thy great purposes, and bestow upon us the treasures of Thy truth. Teach us that our love and faith are tested by what we are willing to suffer and sacrifice. In our failures, chasten us and forgive us; if impulsive, restrain us with Thy blessed calm.

As we onward walk the paths of duty, do Thou endow us with stout hearts and open minds. Stimulate us with that faith that greets the dawn rather than the setting sun; faith in Thee, in our fellow men, and in the ultimate triumph of all things right. Dismissing past regrets and future fears, send us forth on errands of mercy and good will; then we shall have the satisfaction that comes to those who have borne wisely and well their part. Fill us with large sympathies for others, and bless us with complete trust in Thy goodness, and Thine shall be the glory forever. Through Christ our Saviour and Redeemer.

Amen.

BISHOP ARTHUR J. MOORE

Bishop Moore, whose spritual diocese is the world, counts it "a joy and honor to be associated" with this ministry to service men and women.

Eternal God our Heavenly Father, from the midst of the manifold blessings Thou hast sent our way, we lift our hearts to Thee in gratitude.

We thank Thee for our Nation. We love it and are striving to make it a righteous ministering nation. We love our flag and pray Thee to help us to keep it unstained and victorious. In the days of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the time of sorrow suffer not our trust in Thee to fail. Deepen by Thy spirit our devotion to Thee and Thy Church. Help us to stand fast against everything that would defeat the cause of peace and brotherhood. Endow with wisdom those to whom we have entrusted the authority to govern and direct the destinies of our nation.

Help us to make a clear choice of the road we are to follow and give us a faith daring enough to press on toward the Kingdom of God, even if the way is not always clear. Keep us clean in life, steady in purpose, and bring us at last through Thy mercy to the inheritance of those who endure. In the name of the Saviour of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. *Amen.*

MAJ. GENERAL BRYANT E. MOORE

This original prayer by a general who died in Korea was written while he was Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point:

God, our Father, infinite in understanding and mighty in battle, be with us, your soldiers, wherever we serve. Keep us ever conscious of Thee and with Thy strength sustain us. While peace endures give us energy in the good cause; help us to cultivate our skills and instill in us the personal devotion to duty that questions not and knows no reservation. Help us to realize our responsibilities as Americans. Keep us ever conscious of our Country's ideals and suffer us never to tarnish our soldier's honor.

When war comes, O Lord, gird us with Thy strength, and give to us the comforting knowledge of Thy imminence in the awful loneliness of battle. Grant us the strength of righteousness, not of ourselves but of our cause. Purge us of personal pride and conceit. Help us to lead with justice and human understanding those entrusted to our command; and to fulfill the purposes of our superiors with cheerful vigor and effectiveness. Help us to carry our lives but lightly when weighed in the balance against the ultimate values for which our Na-

tion fights. Grant us steadfastness under fire, courage in adversity, fortitude in pain. Bless and sustain our fellow soldiers and grant us long the joyful strength of their comradeship. Ease the wounded and stricken, O Lord, and visit with compassion the lonely and bereaved at home.

Be ever at our side in the turmoil and chaos of battle, O Lord. Comfort, guide, and keep us; and teach us how with faith to endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, and of our Country.

Amen.

ADMIRAL CHESTER W. NIMITZ

The vital and dynamic prayer of Admiral Nimitz:

God grant me the courage to change the things I can change, the serenity to accept those I cannot change, and the wisdom to know the difference—but God grant me the courage not to give up on what I think is right even though I think it is hopeless.

Amen.

BRIG. GENERAL JAMES H. O'NEILL

General O'Neill, Deputy Chief of Chaplains, served with General Patton in World War II.

Have mercy on us, O God of the universe, and behold us, and send Thy fear upon all the nations.

Lift up Thy hand against the strange nations, that they may see Thy power.

As in their sight Thou hast shown Thyself holy in us, so in our sight show Thyself glorious in them, so they may know, even as we know, that there is no god beside Thee, O Lord.

Renew Thy signs and repeat Thy wonders; glorify Thy hand and Thy right arm.

Stir up anger and pour forth fury; take away the adversary and destroy the enemy.

Hasten the time and fix the end, that they may declare Thy great works.

Fill Zion with Thy praises, and Thy temple with Thy glory.

Amen.

VICE-ADMIRAL MERLIN O'NEILL

The prayer of Vice-Admiral O'Neill, Commandant of the United States Coast Guard:

Almighty God, in Thy infinite mercy and wisdom, grant us the courage and the strength to meet the trials that lie before us this day. May we receive Divine guidance in our decisions so that what we do is acceptable in Thy sight. Teach us to be humble, charitable, and merciful in dealings with our fellowman. We ask this in God's name.

Amen.

LT. COLONEL SAMUEL OVERSTREET

Chaplain Overstreet, Senior Chaplain of the 1st Division, (Cavalry) wrote this prayer of gratitude for victory for Major General Hobart R. Gay.

Almighty God, with one accord we acknowledge, in gratitude, that Thou hast heard our petition for power to stay the military might of the aggressor and bring to naught his evil purposes. When our strength and spirit were sorely tried midst the terrors and disappointments of defensive battle, we were vouchsafed the courage and physical stamina to withstand the worst our enemy could do. We are thankful for all the faithful service and heroic deeds performed by the members of this command, which have now culminated in days of glorious victory. Bless, we pray Thee, in Thy hallowed memory all those whose selfless response to duty required of them the sacrifice of their lives. And grant, Lord, through the continuance of Thy Divine guidance, that our arms may speedily gain the final and complete victory for right and justice and peace.

Amen.

FRANK PACE, JR.

The Secretary of the Army names as his prayer the great hymn:

ABIDE WITH ME

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me!

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see:
O Thou who changest not, abide with me!

I need Thy presence every passing hour:
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Thro' cloud and sunshine, O abide with me!

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine thro' the gloom, and point me to the skies:
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee—
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

H. F. Lyte

MAJ. GENERAL ROY H. PARKER

Chief of Chaplains Roy Parker, previously Senior Chaplain with both General MacArthur and General Eisenhower, has written this prayer:

Our gracious Heavenly Father, we come to Thee with grateful hearts for Thy many blessings of the past, and as we come confessing our sins and shortcomings, may we ask ourselves the question as the Psalmist did so long ago when he said: "What is man that Thou art mindful of him?" Yet we know if we come to Thee this day, placing our trust and faith in Thee, Thou has promised to show us the way. So wherever we are today—whatever our station in life may be, on land, in the air, or on the sea—may we come because we are weak and need a Saviour to lead us and guide us. May we, each and every one, realize that we are sinners and have come short of the glory of God. May we come in these troublesome times because we are frustrated and we need something beyond that which our earthly friends can promise or give. And, our Heavenly Father, what we would ask for our own selves and our loved ones, we would ask for Thy children the world over. Especially would we ask at this time, dear Lord, that Thou wilt be with our men and women of the Armed Forces, the chaplains, their assistants, and those they strive to serve. May

we, one and all, by faith look into the eyes of the Great Teacher and with humble and contrite hearts say, "Thy will be done." So help us in every way to reveal to others Thy matchless love and character. For we ask it in Christ's name.

Amen.

MRS. ROBERT PATTERSON

Margaret Patterson, wife of the former Secretary of War, Judge Robert Patterson, contributes this original prayer-poem:

RICHES FOR ALL MEN

Oh, give us riches, of love's glorious kind,
That come from openness of heart and mind!
Recall to us the story which doth say
When base or cruel men do pass this way
Nothing at all is freely offered then
Save hollow echoes—yet how wondrous when
A man impelled by guileless love goes by:
The very gold deep in the earth doth cry,
"Take me and use me for the greater good
For all creation and for brotherhood."

Amen.

BEATRICE PATTON

The widow of General George S. Patton *contributes her own prayer:*

Lord, into Thy hands I commend my spirit.
Amen.

DR. NORMAN VINCENT PEALE

Dr. Peale, minister of the Marble Collegiate Church in New York City, author of A Guide to Confident Living, *and radio speaker, sends this prayer.*

Dear Lord:

I turn to Thee as my partner and comrade. Stay close by and help me to be always near to Thee. With complete trust I put my loved ones and myself in Thy hands. I know Thou wilt watch over them and me. Help me, dear Lord, to live, and if it be Thy will, to die as a Christian clean of soul and with love in my heart. Help me at all times to keep the faith. In Christ's name I pray.

Amen.

COLONEL MARY PHILLIPS

The prayer of Colonel Phillips, Chief of Army Nurse Corps:

ARMY NURSE'S PRAYER

Father, the soldier seems so close to You,
I wonder if his hours on earth are few;
His manly face is hot and red,
Seems I see angels around his bed.
Help me to keep him safe lest I should fail
My pledge of love to Florence Nightingale.
If he should die then I will know
You called him home 'cause You loved him so;
But, Father, ere he goes to rest
Help me to know I have done my best.
Amen.

By Edith Aynes

MRS. DANIEL A. POLING

The prayer of the Editor's wife:

O Eternal and compassionate God, who art the strength of Thy people in every moment of need; grant us so to pass through the coming days with faithful hearts and understanding purpose, that we may in all things prove worthy of the gift of Thy son. Teach us to bear infirmities with cheerful patience and quiet faith. Forgive us when we fail. This we ask in His name.

Amen.

DR. D. de SOLA POOL

This is the prayer of Rabbi de Sola Pool, prophet of peace and brotherhood, Rabbi of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue Shearith Israel, New York:

I am not alone, O God, for Thou art with me everywhere. Therefore I can be strong wherever I may be.

And wherever I may be I cannot be far from the beauty and the inspiration of life that I knew when I was at home. For Thou hast given me not only a body but also a soul. That spirit which Thou hast breathed into me holds ever close within me the conscience and the striving after beautiful living, which gave so much light and loveliness to my childhood and youth. I did not always choose the good or always do the right, but I did not stand alone, for there were my loved ones at home, my teachers, my religious leaders, my true friends, and so many in the past who helped me toward clean, upstanding, and fine living. The blessing of their influence is still with me, and it lives on in my soul to uphold my own striving for betterment, for moral strength and for courage to do the right.

So I pray Thee, O God, now that I am physically far away from home, help me to hold ever in my mind, in my heart, and in my soul the thought of all those influences for better living, the sense

of nearness to my loved ones, and the feeling that Thou art with me everywhere at all times. With Thee upholding me I cannot be afraid. With me hearkening to Thy voice that speaks within my soul I cannot fail.

Amen.

JOSEPH R. PRESS

"Joe" Press, paraplegic victim of World War II, has conquered complete paralysis and lives the faith his prayer voices.

Cause us, O Lord our God, to lie down in peace, and raise us up, O our King, unto life. Spread over us and over all nations the tabernacle of Thy peace; protect the orphaned, the poor, the homeless and the friendless for Thy name's sake. Direct us aright through Thine own good counsel; be Thou a shield about us: remove from us and from those we love every enemy, pestilence, sword, famine, and sorrow; remove the forces of evil besetting us on all sides. We commend the results of our labor into Thy hands; may they be deemed worthy of Thine approval. Grant us, O divine source of strength, the power to toil patiently and to hope for Thy blessing. O shelter us beneath the shadow of Thy wings; for Thou, O God, art our Guardian and our Deliverer; yea, Thou, O God, art a gracious and merciful King. May this day bring us nearer to Thee.

Amen.

JOHN G. RAMSAY

John Ramsay, Public Relations Director of the C.I.O., writes: "I have not had a personal experience in war: in World War I, I was too young; in World War II, I was too old and my sons were too young. At the present time I have two sons who will probably soon be in the service. May God richly bless you."

Our Heavenly Father, in these troubled times when men are distrustful and fearful of each other, grant that our faith in Christ Jesus can overcome the bitterness of heart and mind; grant that we can recognize the corporate sin but love the individual; grant that all men may love thee enough that wars may cease.

May I not only be willing to die for my nation but be determined to live for Christ Jesus and his Kingdom.

Grant me Thy peace, O Lord.

Amen.

CAPTAIN EDDIE RICKENBACKER

Eddie Rickenbacker submits this prayer and writes: ". . . herewith a prayer which I trust will be of some assistance to the boys who are doing so much for us."

O, Lord, unto Thee we lift up our eyes in our hour of trouble as we know Thou art with us and watching over us. Yea, though we walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, we will fear no evil, for Thou art with us, Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort us.

A thousand shall fall at our side and ten thousand at our right hand, but with Thy protection, we feel it will not come nigh us.

May our sin of worry be forgiven, O Father, for we have doubted Thy power and Thy goodness too often. Shake our souls this day with Thy power, and as we contemplate the awesome magnitude of the world to be, let our spirits grow in stature and in power.

Help us to live as Thy sons, as free men, as heirs of Christ and thus prepare the way for the gathering of all nations into Thy Family until Peace shall reign forever, and all peoples shall proclaim Thee Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

Amen.

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR.

This prayer was recorded by Mr. Rockefeller and broadcast over WOR, January 1, 1944, in its Minute of Prayer series.

To Thee, Oh God, Father of Mankind, we come in deep humility, asking forgiveness of our sins. We have too often been selfish, unkind, and intolerant. May love for Thee and for our fellow men dominate and ennoble our lives! Give us to know the meaning of duty, the joy of service, the rewards of sacrifice. May even death have for us no fear so long as it be nobly met! And may we face the unknown calm and unafraid, because of an abiding faith in Thee.

Amen.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

The choice of Mrs. Roosevelt is the immortal Twenty-third Psalm:

THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

HAROLD RUSSELL

The prayer from the National Commander, AMVETS, was composed by the past National Chaplain of AMVETS, Rabbi Dudley Weinberg of Brookline, Massachusetts.

Almighty God and Father:

Unto Thee do we pour out our hearts in thanksgiving for the freedom we enjoy and for the heritage of liberty and human dignity which our forefathers have bequeathed to us as our birthright.

We thank Thee for the United States of America and for the spirit which causes men here to strive to break down the barriers that separate man from his fellow man. Help us, O Father, to direct our efforts to the end that within the borders of our blessed land there may always be heard the glorious strains of a symphony of humanity united together in brotherhood under the divine fatherhood.

We thank Thee too for the memory of our comradeship in time of war. Grant that we may never forget the purposes and the goals for which we suffered and for which so many of our comrades died. May we remain united in the search for peace and brotherhood even as we were once united in the struggle to overcome tyranny on the battlefield. Sanctify our memories and cause them to serve as an unfailing inspiration to us to bring closer the day when each man shall sit under his vine and

under his fig tree with none to make him afraid. Speed the day when nations shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, when Thy divine peace shall be made to reign in the hearts of all Thy children.

Amen.

WALTER P. REUTHER

Mr. Reuther, who is a member of the Lutheran Church, sends us his selection for this book, the Invocation delivered by Rabbi Joseph Baron of Milwaukee at the opening of the Twelfth U.A.W.-C.I.O. Convention in Milwaukee, July, 1949.

Almighty God, we stand before Thee, united in heart, invoking Thy name and Thy blessing. Help us, O Father, to bear in mind constantly how much we owe to the labors of our fellow men. Day by day others toil that we may be satisfied; they brave the terrors of the unknown for the truth that sheds light on our way. Numberless gifts have been laid in our cradles as our birthright by men and women in every corner of the globe.

Help us then, O God, to realize that labor is man's very life, that nothing comes into the world ready made, and that, therefore, none of us in the pride of possession forget the true nature and source of wealth or the responsibilities of power.

Give us the strength to pierce through the clouds of disagreement that we may see our common interests and soar above the distinctions of color, creed and culture: that we may see our common destiny to keep aglow the sacred memory of our common sacrifices, that we may never lose sight of our common humanity.

Help us, O God, to be on our guard against believing that the things which constitute the difficulties of our day are in the order of nature, beyond the control of man. Give us the vision, the courage, and the strength to struggle on toward the eradication of greed, corruption, and superstition, toward the implementation of health, security, and opportunity.

Aid us in our individual and collective efforts to rebuild this world for a society more free, more just, and more splendid than ours, for an order that will truly approximate the hope of Thy Kingdom.

Heavenly Father, help us to live purposefully, charitably, and in consecration to the service of Thy children.

Amen.

ETHEL B. SAGER

Miss Sager is Dean of Girls and teacher of Latin in the Ottawa Hills High School, Toledo, Ohio. She is Special Lecturer at Toledo University.

PRAYER FOR OUR CHILDREN

Guide their steps, O Lord, that they may grow in wisdom and understanding of Thy ways. Give them the zeal to work and teach them the joy that comes from tasks well done. Fill their hearts with love and compassion for their fellow men; in meekness and humility let them serve. With the courage to stand for right and justice and peace, may they play fair in the game of life, and grant them vision and purpose. Teach them to believe first in Thee, and believing in Thee, to believe in themselves. This, O Lord, I ask for our children.

Amen.

REAR ADMIRAL
STANTON W. SALISBURY

Chaplain Salisbury writes, "My favorite prayers are as follows":

O God, we pray Thee that the memory of our comrades, fallen in battle, may be ever sound in our hearts; that the sacrifice which they have offered for our country's cause may be acceptable in Thy sight; and that an entrance into Thine eternal peace may, by Thy pardoning grace, be open unto them through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Amen.

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then of Thy mercy grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

REVEREND ROY B. SCHMEICHEL

The National Chaplain, Veterans of Foreign Wars, writes: "This prayer is from a book of prayers I use regularly."

A SAILOR'S PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Thy almighty hand has made the earth and sky and sea. Thou art the omnipotent Ruler of the mighty waters of the deep. Wherever my duties in the service of my country take me, even though it be to the uttermost parts of the sea, I know that even there Thy hand shall lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me. Those were the hands that were extended on the cross for my salvation, the hands on which Thou hast graven me, the hands out of which no power of earth and hell shall pluck me. O Jesus, be Thou at all times my mighty Protector, my gracious Guide, my very present Help in all trouble. Preserve and strengthen me in Thy faith, so that I may never cast aside my trust in Thy atoning blood. Keep me in chastity, in loyal and courageous service of my country. Teach me to submit willingly to all tasks assigned to me by my superiors. When dangerous storms arise, hold Thy guarding hand over our ship and its entire crew, and dispel all fear and terror by the knowledge that Thou art mightier than the mightiest waves, and that Thou canst protect Thy chil-

dren in the raging of wind and billows. May Thy peace keep my whole spirit, that my soul and body be preserved blameless until the great day of Thy coming, my Redeemer and Lord.

Amen.

CHARLES W. SKEELE

Colonel Skeele is President of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States.

Christ has said, "if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." In Thy name, dear Jesus, we ask Thy blessing and guidance in our daily tasks, in order that Thy will may be done and all peoples be made to know Thy desires.

Amen.

MRS. GIPSY SMITH

Mrs. Smith, widow of the famous evangelist who was a Chaplain in World War I, and who ministered to men, women, and little children across the world, sends this prayer from London, England:

Dear Father:

Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit help us to face this day with the confidence of Thy Presence in our hearts, so that we may be a blessing to someone, be a comfort to someone.

Fill us with Thy Love.

The Love that passeth all understanding.

We long for the Beauty of Jesus to shine through all that we do each moment of today.

And help us so to live that we may look forward with joyful anticipation to our certain reunion with the ones we love who are just a little ahead of us. They are already in Thy Presence. And we love them now even as we loved them when they walked beside us.

Amen.

LUTHER WESLEY SMITH

The Executive Secretary of the Board of Education and Publication of the Northern Baptist Convention sends this original prayer:

O God, we call Thee Father but we are not always conscious of Thy nearness and of Thy love and constant care. Our lives have been set in difficult and tragic times. We find it trying often to do good to our neighbors; how to love our enemies completely baffles us. O God upon our confusion wilt Thou shed light, in place of our doubt wilt Thou give direction.

Service to our country and loyalty to our cherished ideals calls us to tasks that are tough, often monotonous and seemingly meaningless, sometimes bloody. Help us to see through the gloom of conflict to the day of Thy victory. When momentary release comes from the struggle or battle we are too often tempted to seek escape in gross satisfaction of the flesh. O God, be near to deliver us from temptation and when we fall be pleased to cleanse us and renew right spirits within us. Hold us, we pray Thee, to an honorable course.

Remind us that Thou art everywhere. Whether we go far from home by land or sea or in the air, Thou art with us to bind our wounds, to give us

courage, to free us from loneliness, to grant us peace.

O Father and Friend of us all, by no thought or act, by no yielding to hopelessness and despair may we surrender our Friendship to Thee. We ask through Him who made known to us Thy love and Thy peace.

Amen.

FRANCIS CARDINAL SPELLMAN

Francis Cardinal Spellman prepared this prayer for United Nations Day. It was given to Mr. John Golden for broadcasting purposes and read on the Tex and Jinx program:

PRAYER FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

Father in Heaven, God of all nations,
Bless Thou America, bless Thou the world!
Bless Thy peoples whose representatives here assemble,
Bless them with Thy wisdom, that they may be all-wise,
Bless them with Thy truth, that they may be all-truthful,
Bless them with Thy mercy, that they may be all-merciful,
Bless them with Thy spirit of peace, that they may know peace
And foster peace upon the earth for the sake of Thy glory.

Thine, O God, is the Hand that has guided nations
Through the slow travail of history,
Shepherding them through storm and strife,
Leading them through forests primeval
Into goodly lands for their inheritance,
Striking off the shackles of barbarism,

Dispelling the mists of error and cruelty,
Ambitioning them onward in the ways of progress,
Sealing them with high destiny.

In these years of dark confusion
Wild winds carry hisses of hate,
Wars grow deadlier with the decades,
Lands lie blasted and famines rage.
Peoples lie helpless before Thee,
Longing for the peace that does not come.
In this hour of the world's extremity
Thou dost call Thy family of nations,
Gathering them together in this land of liberty,
In this land of peace and plenty.

America is Thine, O God of Nations,
Thine, to use for all nations' sake,
Thou has spirited this land with love of liberty
Making her a sanctuary of freedom,
A Temple for the Council Chambers of the nations
Where the Spirit of Thy Peace shall dwell,
Nurtured by America's love for humanity,
Served by America's passion for justice,
Guarded by America's might and genius.

O God of History,
Ceaselessly weaving Thy ordained design
Upon the timeless loom of time,

Grant that all nations may follow Thy holy purposes.
Long Centuries look down upon this hopeful hour,
Hosts of war dead stand suppliants beside us;
Myriads of faces seamed with want, woe, and fear,
Scarred faces, marked by man's struggle through the ages,
Turn beseeching, begging us remember,
Yearning for the peace that they have won.
They watch us now, the dead and the half-dead, they watch and wonder.

Into man's own hands, O God,
Thou hast placed power for self salvation or destruction.
Seek man peace, life grows abundant;
Seek man war, death dooms the world!
Merciful God of Nations, Spirit of Peace, Thou must conquer!
Reign Thou supreme among all nations;
Banish hates from peoples; perish wars from earth!

Amen.

BISHOP JOHN S. STAMM

The President of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America offers this prayer:

O God, our Heavenly Father,

We rejoice in the fact that Thou knowest the way we take; that Thou also knowest all our needs; and that Thou knowest where we are strong and where we are weak. Help us to find the companionship of Thy presence. Make us strong through the grace which Thou dost offer and lead us into the way of truth and peace through Thy spirit.

We pray Thee, help us daily to live fully committed to those high purposes which moved Thee to give Thy Son Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord. We pray for Thy light and Thy salvation. Forgive our sins. Take from our lives the strain and stress. Renew a right spirit within us and help us to respond to Thy love and grace so freely offered. In our conduct may we daily express thy order. In our lives may Thy concern for human welfare find a hearty response. In all of our experiences help us to know that Thy love is overshadowing us and Thy arms are upholding us. We thank Thee for Thy love and care. We thank Thee also for Thy grace, through which we are saved. May the light of Thy countenance shine upon our path, and may we walk in that light.

Bless all who are associated with us in this service to our nation and for humanity. We pray for Thy Spirit to lead all those who direct in the ordering of human relations and the establishment of world peace. Hasten the day when there shall be peace and righteousness for all men everywhere.

This we pray in the name of Him who is the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

HAROLD E. STASSEN

The President of the University of Pennsylvania, the former Governor of Minnesota and a veteran of World War II, has written this prayer for our book:

PRAYER BEFORE ENTERING BATTLE

Dear Lord, as I enter this battle, I pray Thee grant to me the courage to do my full part without fail, and to stand by my fellows who are in this battle with me. Help me to be worthy of the uniform I wear, of the stars and stripes I fight under, and of the God I believe in.

If it be Thy will, I pray that I may survive this battle without harm.

If it be Thy will that I do not survive, I pray Thy special blessing on my loved ones at home. Watch over them, lead them and guide them in the years ahead.

With humble thanks for Thy many blessings.

Amen.

MRS. C. R. TILGHMAN

Mrs. Tilghman, mother of two sons in the service, sends this prayer for all sons.

Dear Father in Heaven:

We thank Thee for Thy Son, who showed us the way to come to you as Our Father. Tonight and always we ask Thee to be with our boys in each branch of the service. Many are so young, and perhaps have not had the guiding hand of parents and the church. We pray especially for these. That they may come to know and trust Thee.

Keep my own boys free from hatred, except for that which is evil. Never let intolerance for those of different race, color, or creed enter their minds. Fill them with understanding, that they may love their enemies. But give them courage and determination to destroy the wickedness these represent. Hold them in Thy hand, give them Faith and courage in their darkest hours. May they help others to know Thy presence and power. Be with Thy Chaplains, as they comfort and care for the souls of men and women, so precious to Thee.

If it be in Thy Great Plan, bring my boys safely home again. Yet if Thy Will directs them to Eternity, help us to understand and be worthy of their trust, that we may meet them there some day. Keep me humble, Lord. Direct my words and

living that I may share the Faith and Peace Thou hast given me. Use our united prayers to overwhelm evil. Our sons are in Thy watch, Thy care, and Thy will.

In the Name of Jesus who gave His Life that we might have Life Everlasting.

Amen.

GENE TUNNEY

The famous sportsman and undefeated heavyweight boxing champion of the world submits:

Please, God, make me worthy of Thy friendship, for if I possess it, I know that no lasting harm can come to me. In Your friendship, I will grow to better manhood and be confident of eternal peace and happiness in Thy presence.

Amen.

GEORGE VAN INWEGEN

This veteran, a polio victim, has known peril, despair, courage, and victory at first hand.

O, Heavenly Father, as Thou watchest over Thy children I humbly beseech Thee to have mercy on those in dire peril. Bless the men of our armed forces as they perform the duties of their calling.

Preserve the navy from the perils of the sea, the snares and violences of our enemies. In the hour of danger let their hearts be on Thee and their eyes turned to Thy holy star; and as our aviators fly on the wings of the morning and soar into the uttermost parts of the world, have mercy upon them and bring them safely back from their missions.

Give courage to the boys in the trenches and take the fear and horror of war from their minds.

For those boys who have been wounded and bodies torn asunder from battle scars, I ask Thee to be with them when they try to readjust themselves. Give them courage of heart and the will to go on. These things, together with whatever Thou would have me ask, I ask in Christ's name.

Amen.

GENERAL HOYT S. VANDENBERG

The Commander of the Air Force submits an

AIR FORCE PRAYER

Our Heavenly Father, whose loving care encompasses even the sparrow in its flight, guide and protect, we pray, the men who fly the uncharted spaces of the sky. Bless those who, through service in the Air Force, stand guard over the sacred trust of home and country.

Endow them with wisdom and understanding, that they may clearly see the path of duty and courageously devote themselves in service to the nation they love. In the solitude of flight may the beauty of Thy greatness be revealed to each of them that they may pattern their lives after Thine.

Extend Thy strengthening presence to those who wait at home; and may they ever know Thy watchful care will keep safe the absent one.

Let Thy benediction be upon us, O God we pray. Lead us to carry on the trust left by our brothers, who gave with honor their lives in service of their country. May we find peace in the knowledge of our mission accomplished and their task completed through service for Thee.

Amen.

COMMANDER RUSSELL WAESCHE

Commander Waesche of the United States Coast Guard writes: "The composing of prayers is not a familiar task to me, but I have written the following with particular emphasis on the Coast Guard":

Our Father, Lord of earth and seas,

We who are forced into conflict to uphold those principles in which we believe—

We who also are dedicated to saving lives from peril, in war and peace—

Ask Thy help.

Give us courage in danger,

Endurance in exhausting toil and stress,

Grant us inner calmness of spirit in stormy seas and in heat of battle

So that we may uphold our country's ideals and our honor,

To Thy greater glory and to the peace of mankind,

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

COLONEL CLAYTON E. WHEAT

Former Chaplain and Professor of English at West Point, the author of the Cadet Prayer, which was named as their favorite by General Bradley and General Collins, composed an original prayer for this book.

PRAYER FOR AN AVIATOR

O God of whose presence I am intimately aware as I rise into the blue on the wings of the morning, cleanse me, body and soul, of any selfish, unworthy motives which might hinder and discourage me in steadfast and instant devotion to duty.

Keep me ever unwavering in my loyalty to the Air Corps and constant in my allegiance to our Country.

May my confidence and trust in Your vigilant watchfulness over me so possess my heart that in times of crisis and extreme peril I will know without fail that underneath always are Your Everlasting Arms.

I offer this prayer in the Name of the Master Pilot who came to guide men into the more abundant life.

Amen.

CHARLES E. WILSON

The President of the General Electric Company, and Director of Defense Mobilization, who was Chairman of the President's Civil Rights Committee, writes: "This is the prayer 'For Our Country,' from the Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church, which I used after the close of my address at a number of camps at Association Island."

Almighty God, Who hast given us this good land for our heritage; we humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favour and glad to do Thy will. Bless our land with honourable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogancy, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in Thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to Thy law, we may show forth Thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

DANIEL A. POLING

The Editor has composed the nine prayers which follow especially for this book.

MY PRAYER

I do not ask, O Lord
A life all free from pain;
I do not seek to be
In this vast world of need
Without my load of care.
For this I know, the cross
Is my eternal gain,
And he who struggles on
At last shall enter in,
And be victorious there.

So, Lord, just keep me fit within,
And give me strength to fight,
And I will follow through the din,
From darkness up to light.

Amen.

THE PRAYER OF A FATHER WHO LOST A SON IN WORLD WAR II

Our Father Who art in Heaven, Father of our son who is now with Thee, we thank Thee for him and for the years he spent with us. We thank Thee too, that in his high hour from Thee he received strength to serve his comrades, and that in giving his life he saved the lives of others.

We gave him to his country, but in a deeper sense he gave himself. With a solemn pride we thank Thee now.

We pray for all "the sons of woman born" who today are in the Armed Services, that they too shall find the strength and courage he found, that they too shall be sufficient for their ordeal, and that if it be Thy Will they may return to the pursuits of happiness and peace when their task is done.

In their absence and through all anxieties and uncertainties sustain their mothers and fathers as Thou hast sustained us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER OF A SOLDIER

Our Heavenly Father, grant peace of mind to those whom I have left behind me. May they be comforted by their memories of all they did and gave to make me ready for life. May they know, as I can never tell them, how grateful I am for their loyalty, their love, and their sacrifices. May my letters to them and all the words unspoken that I would write sustain and strengthen them, and may they somehow know how real is their help to me now, how clearly I feel them with me in this place, and how their faith in me makes and keeps me strong.

Our Father, I thank Thee for them. Make and keep me worthy of them. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

WHEN WOUNDED OR SICK

Heavenly Father, I am hurt in my body and troubled of mind and spirit. While others carry on I must lie helpless and a burden here. I know that Jesus was a good and brave soldier. I know that He suffered and also died for His cause and for me, and I have read that He cried out for help and comfort even as I cry now. In His Holy Name, the Name that is above all others, I ask for courage to bear my pain and idleness, and that in my wounds and suffering I shall be worthy of my country and of those who love me.

In Thy Will may I recover, serve with my comrades again, and finally return to my home and the tasks of peace. But whatever the future holds for me, for all of life and for everything, may I be made adequate. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

YOUTH'S PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Father of the Young Man Jesus Who gave His youth and Who has never turned aside, I pledge and give my youth today. It is not much, but it is my all, and there are those to whom it is dearer than their physical existence. I would hold it now as a sacred trust. I would keep it worthy. Grant me strength and wisdom. Lead me into the fullness of life. Deliver me when I am tempted even as Thou didst deliver Thine own Son. Help me not to cry out unless it is to Thee I cry. May I be in some small way at least an inspiration to others. May I find for my youth, which now is Thine and my country's, the place where it shall count for the most, and may I not be turned aside. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A PRAYER FOR A PRACTICAL FAITH

Our Heavenly Father, I need faith for here and now. Faith for the little things that make up my day. Faith to carry me through the drudgery and unpleasantness of camp life. Faith to meet temptations—temptations to shirk, to alibi, to take advantage, to doubt my comrades and myself.

O God, in Thine infinite knowledge and with power to create worlds, create in me courage just for this day. Give to me now a sense of being needed. Make my country real to me and her cause so ample that in everything I am called upon to do, however small the task, I shall feel that I am *indispensable!*

Father, may I have here and now the assurance that Thou dost hear and answer me. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER FOR STRENGTH THROUGH CONFESSION

Our Father Who art in Heaven, hear my cry as I confess to Thee, through Thy Son Jesus Christ, my sins and weaknesses. They are many. I cannot name them all, but Thou knowest all and Thou knowest me. In sorrow I come. Grant me forgiveness and strength that I resist the evil. Thou knowest the sincerity of my confession and the strong desire of my heart. I would be strong and in Thee, O Father, is strength. Come to me.

By Thy Grace, I shall not go back again to my evil-doing. I shall go forward. I shall seek the better. I shall be true to my loved ones, to my country and to Thee. Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I *promise*.

Amen.

PRAYER FOR A SON OVERSEAS

Our Heavenly Father, we bring to Thee our Son. In a place distant from us and yet always near to Thee, he serves his country and the cause of Brotherhood and Peace. Our love follows him, but our arms are too short to reach him there. In our weakness we come to Thy strength. Wilt Thou make him strong and keep him clean and fit?

We ask for our son not favors we would not seek for all sons, but he is of our blood, and to us a sacred trust from Thee. Make our faith strong that we fail him not.

We do not ask that he be delivered from hardships or made exempt from burdens and suffering that in the line of duty he must bear. We do pray that he have courage, and that he be made adequate. Our hearts hunger for him, and in Thy Will we pray for his return. Make us worthy of the answer to our prayer. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER FOR THOSE IN TRAINING

Father of all mercies, and Father of Thine only begotten Son, who is our Lord and Saviour, I come seeking courage and persistence to complete my training, that I may be a good soldier of my country. May I get ready here to make my life count for freedom and an enduring peace. In my loneliness may I have Thy presence, and with Thy Grace may I conquer homesickness and doubt.

May I be faithful. May I have the assurance that all is well with my loved ones, that they too are in Thy care, and that in our separation we shall find in our memories comfort and power. As a son I pray to Thee in the name of Thine own Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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